(a) whether Government have recently identified 88 engineering companies for export drive; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) In response to an initiative taken by the Government, 88 engineering companies have submitted detailed company-wise export action plans. These action plans *inter alia* contain details regarding installed capacity, production, past exports, export projections for the period 1987-88 to 1990-91, market plans, product plans etc.

Appointment of Chairman of Tobacco Board

*114. SHRl BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman, Tobacco Board is lying vacant for quite some time;

(b) whether some Members of Parliament have written to Government for the filling up of the above post; and

(c) if so, by when the post is likely to be fllled up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

Sngiing of memorandum of understanding: with the Swiss authorities

*115. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI;
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had initiated steps to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indians having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally;

(b) whether it is a fact that a six member team of various Ministries had visited Switzerland in this regard and submited its report in October last; and

(c) if so, what sort of agreement/ understanding is going to be signed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALE IRO): (a) to (c) A team comprising representatives of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Central Bureau of Investigation and the Reserve Bank of India visited Berne (Switzerland) in September, 1987, to explore the possibilities of entering into an arrangement for mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Governments of India and Switzerland. Based on the recommendations of the team, Government is exploring the feasibility of exchange of letters between the two Governments for mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Dowry deaths

*116. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AF-: FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been an increase in the